



ABRN News
Spring 2011

...to the rescue

Rehoming Some of Colorado's Most Eligible Dogs

RESCUE SPOTLIGHT: American Bouvier Rescue League

Erin Bradford

A recent talk with Karen Brown, Vice President of ABRN and rescuer of Bouvier des Flandres, had me wondering: how many times have I walked by a rare, purebred dog in my local shelter and not even recognized it? Imagine knowing that your chosen breed is sitting in a shelter somewhere, perhaps mis-identified and potentially heading to the euthanasia room? Luckily for ABRN rescue groups, ABRN shelter liaisons are working in Colorado to identify breeds for which we have breed-specific rescues and notifying them so that rescue groups can go pick them up and find great homes for them. We don't have shelter liaisons in every shelter, but we do have most of the larger shelters covered,

thanks to people like Karen. She's one of those special people who ensures that fewer dogs go unnoticed.

In addition to rescuing Bouviers, Karen is a shelter liaison for ABRN and works the Dumb Friend League's Buddy Center in Castle Rock. Her extensive knowledge of dog breeds is invaluable in doing such a great job in that role. Whenever possible, Karen arranges transport and vetting before transferring the dog to an approved rescue. Doing much of the legwork herself helps to improve ABRN's image in the shelter community. She facilitates the process and demonstrates that working with ABRN can be a simple, stress-free experience.



Most of her work is done by email, and Karen goes into the shelter around once a week to see what's going on, make sure dogs are identified correctly, and whether they have any major behavioral issues that a rescue needs to be warned about.

Over the years, Karen has become a critical part of the shelter's family: "We have a number of liaisons, and I'm the spoiled one, because ABRN has a really great relationship with the Buddy Center," says Karen. "They even come to me with a lot of other animals, like cats. The staff is phenomenal, and they really go above and beyond to save an animal's life.

- chase over to page 2!

ABRN BOARD CHANGES

Martha Smith has stepped down as President of ABRN after approximately 15 years of dedicated service. She will remain on the Board and continue to represent ABRN at the Metro Denver Shelter Alliance, the Coalition for Living Safely with Dogs, the Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies, and anywhere else the Board deems appropriate. Karen Brown has assumed the Presidency, and Karin Lang was elected by the Board to serve as Vice President. Jacky Eckard, President of Safe Harbor Lab Rescue, has been appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee, and if you would be interested in running or nominating someone for a Board position this fall, please contact her at jeckard@gmail.com

– you caught it from page 1!

We also do some mixed breeds along the way if we can, and if we don't have a specific breed rescue for a dog, or if we call a group and they're too full to take a dog, then an ABRN board member takes that dog, and I oversee making sure that dog is fostered, vetted, and adopted to a screened home."

Karen is an avid Bouvier rescuer and sometimes breeder. She was instrumental in forming the American Bouvier Rescue League over 20 years ago. "I got my first Bouvier in 1983, and over the years, we would get them here in Colorado in need of rescue." Karen and other Bouvier breeders would hear about a dog in a shelter or get a phone call, and they were coordinating with people across the country to rescue dogs. Karen and a small handful of other Bouvier lovers started a national breed rescue group because the need was apparent. "In 1990, when I was seven months pregnant, we got nine dogs out of a puppy mill rescue in Topeka, Kansas. It was at that point that we really got the attention of the national breed club. Jackie Crowe, who lived in Utah, and I put together the original program. It's now funded by the national club thanks to the Ralph Goldman Memorial Fund."

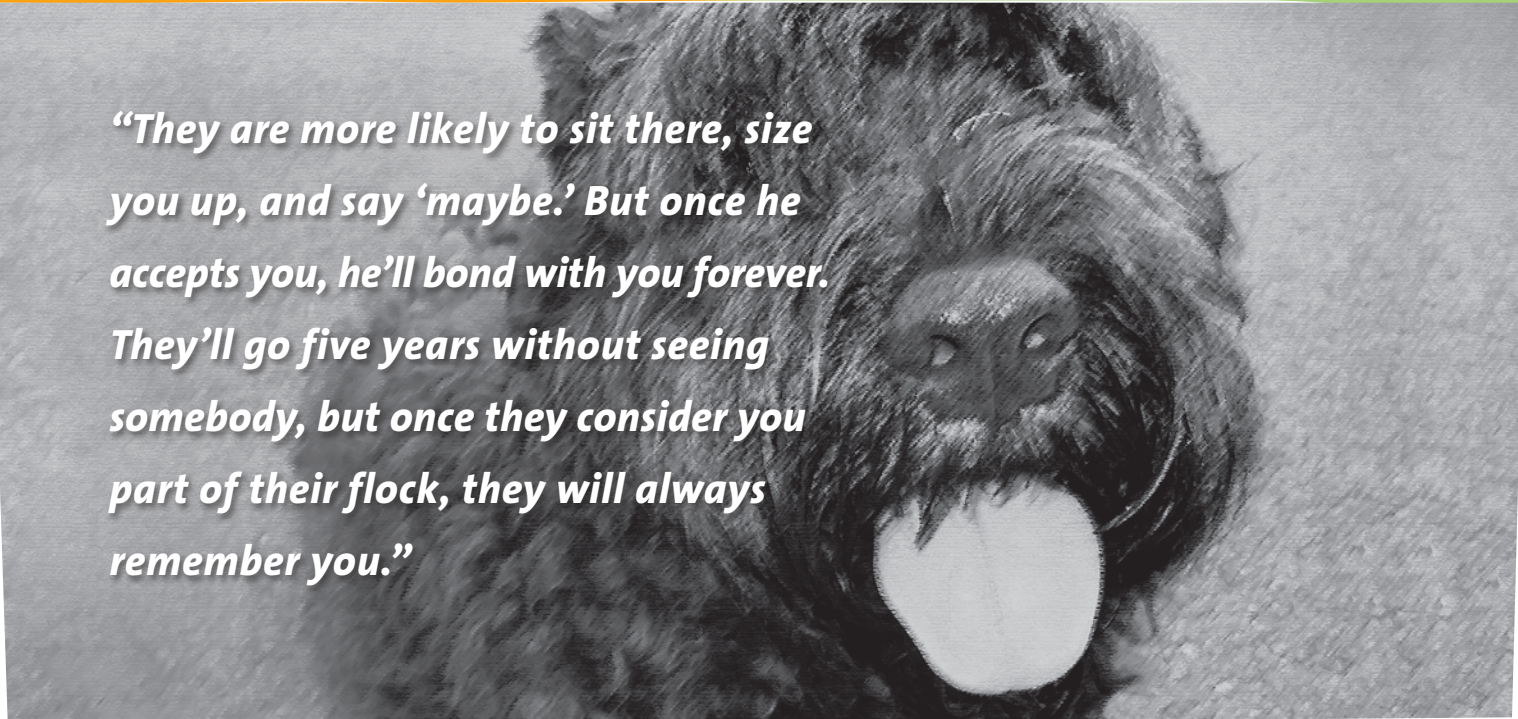
While those first nine dogs may have been mill rescues, puppy millers are not a common source for Bouviers anymore, but backyard breeders have been a big problem in the past decade: "Some breeders were pumping them out every six months like clockwork," says Karen. "We were taking in 15-20 dogs per year." Lately, casual breeding has diminished as the breed's popularity has declined. Currently, says Karen, "Colorado enjoys a good reputation with the breeders that are still here in the area, and our breeders are doing a better job overall of placing and following up with their dogs. Now we are only taking in about five dogs per year." Karen belongs to this group of responsible breeders and breeds only rarely, adhering to strict health and breed standards. She is also part of the Breeder of Merit program, a new program offered

by the AKC, which approves or rejects all applications. The program looks for evidence of commitment to the sport, as well as a track record of titles earned on dogs that applicants have bred.

Bouviers are such an unusual dog that proper home screening is critical. "They're a wonderful breed, but they're not for everyone," explains Karen. Bred mostly for the farm life of pulling carts and herding livestock, they were considered drovers: dogs bred to herd cattle using their shoulder to body block the animal instead of the traditional heel-nipping technique. This breed is and always has been highly motivated by their commitment to the handler, so to say this is a loyal family dog would be an understatement. Karen explains, "The average Bouvier is quiet inside. They will play, but they are also happy to lie down. They want to be with their people and stay nearby. If you get up and go, they go with you. But they're also a protective dog, so Bouvier owners really needs to be vigilant about that and teach people about what to do if they become alarmed. They are not a quick trigger – they will try and bluff you before they do anything." Bouviers also have an unusual coat and a tendency to pick up dirt, water, and grass. They need regular grooming, as they possess both a topcoat and undercoat. A weekly brushout with a trim every six weeks or so will keep them in top form. There are exceptions, but as a general rule, Bouviers are not recommended for households with cats due to their herding instinct.

Karen is always on the lookout for adopters who "want to make them part of the family, not people looking for a guard dog or a dog that's going to herd cattle. I look for people who are calm






“They are more likely to sit there, size you up, and say ‘maybe.’ But once he accepts you, he’ll bond with you forever. They’ll go five years without seeing somebody, but once they consider you part of their flock, they will always remember you.”

and level-headed. Bouviers handled incorrectly can become neurotic, because they want to please. They need someone with a degree of consistency. It’s great when someone is breed-savvy. On the other hand, homes that have never had one before can be great, because they’re a blank slate.” Earning a Bouvier’s love and respect is no quick feat - most dogs take about six months to settle in to their new home. “I like to see a willingness to train if necessary. We really encourage that, even with dogs that are already highly trained. It really helps the owner/dog bonding process. They’re not the dog to run up to someone and say ‘Hi! You’re my best friend.’ They are more likely to sit there, size you up, and say ‘maybe.’ But once he accepts you, he’ll bond with you forever. They’ll go five years without seeing somebody, but once they consider you part of their flock, they will always remember you.”

Karen has seen her share of dogs in bad shape; one that really tugged at her heartstrings was a dog named Raven: “Pike’s Peak Humane Society in Colorado Springs called to let me know they had a female Bouvier that weighed 32 pounds (average weight for an adult female Bouvier is generally 75-85 pounds). I headed out to the shelter, and what I saw was unbelievable. She was a skeleton. The owner said she’d been missing and returned in that condition, but that obviously wasn’t true, and the owner did go to court over the case. After lots of TLC, Raven turned out to be a beautiful dog and we kept her close – we were lucky to place her with someone that we knew,

and she lived out a long life and was sweet and had no behavioral problems. She was featured in our rescue parades and was our poster child for a long time.”

Another dog, Max, came to Karen through a familiar venue: a posting on Craigslist about a Bouvier owned by a homeless man needing to re-home him. “When I saw this dog, I thought we would have to put him down. The dog had horrific sarcoptic mange. You couldn’t even pet him, because it would cause him to suffer spasms of agony. You couldn’t even lift his ears to look at them because they were so thick and encrusted. My vet wasn’t hopeful, but she said we could try and see what happened. That is one of the great things about Bouvier rescue – since we don’t have great numbers of them, we can keep them for quite some time before we place them. I had Max for nine months before he was placed in Minnesota on a little farm with a nice woman. He’s been transformed into a beautiful dog with a great coat, and the new owner couldn’t be happier with him.”

For Karen, rescue is more than her hobby; it’s a way of life. From dog shows to shelters, she is often one of the first lines of hope for dogs that will eventually find their way to ABRN rescues. She has earned our heartfelt gratitude for all the work she does for ABRN and for the dogs. To foster, adopt, or surrender a Bouvier, please contact Karen Brown, American Bouvier Rescue League, at 303-841-6052 or email karen@lebeardz.com. 

Want to Help? Consider Fostering

Susan Heidicker Brown

One of the most valuable resources a rescue groups has are foster homes.



One of the greatest NEEDS a rescue group has is for foster homes. Want to help out in some way but don't necessarily want to make a long-term commitment? Consider fostering. Many owners looking to surrender dogs have to be turned away, and other dogs remain in shelters because the rescue groups do not have enough foster homes in which to place the dogs.

All Breed Rescue Network is a coalition of over 100 different purebred dog rescue groups (and many take mixes). We do not have a facility or shelter in which to house dogs waiting to be adopted. Instead, rescue groups foster the dogs themselves and/or rely on volunteers willing to foster one or more dogs in their home until a permanent home is found. Quite simply, without fosters, many rescues could not do what they do.

Fostering can be a very rewarding - and sometimes challenging - experience. Not all rescued dogs are reliably housetrained, and not all are obedience trained. They usually learn quickly when given the proper guidance, consistency, and patience. Some dogs are young and energetic. Others are older and may require less exercise. Each group has its own process and requirements regarding potential fosters. Each group's leadership will be there to help you and answer any questions you may have during the fostering process.

A tall fence may be required for a big dog but not for a small dog, for example. Some dogs would not be good with cats or young children. Not all groups need foster homes (based on the number of dogs they place a year, etc.), but MOST do and will be most grateful for your help. Whether or not a group uses foster homes or accepts someone as a foster home is entirely at their discretion. Some dogs need a quiet place to stay while recovering from major surgery, which may take some weeks. Some are special needs dogs with injuries. Some have been traumatized or physically harmed in puppy mills or by abusive

owners. Some have kennel cough and need to be isolated from other dogs (my laundry room has worked well as an isolation room) until they regain their health. These dogs all need a safe, loving place to recover to help them become more adoptable.

Some groups have many fosters - others, just a few. Many hold annual gatherings that include potential adopters, previous adopters, and the group's volunteers, with lots of dogs, food, fun, socializing, and laughter with people who share your enthusiasm for a particular breed. I attended the Japanese Chin Dig last summer with my two non-Chin dogs, and we all had a great time. A potential adopter found her forever canine companion on that day, and I'll never forget the look of contentment and joy on her face as she held her new canine family member. Being surrounded by a bevy of Japanese Chins was a new and pleasurable experience for me.

We don't foster anymore (age, health, personality of our own dogs); however, we've fostered over 30 dogs over the years. Sometimes they stayed a few hours, others stayed a few months. We adopted a few (not unusual), and the others were a mixed experience of loving them and hating to let them go and "glad to know you, so happy the rescue group found a wonderful permanent home for you, but we're kinda glad to see you go." It was always interesting, and we always felt we were making a valuable contribution to the rescue effort.

One dog's owner contacted Westie Rescue many years after adopting Rudy, a Westie, to tell us that Rudy had passed away. He remembered us fostering him and that I named him Rudy because he danced on his hind legs, which reminded me of the elegant Rudolf Nureyev. They leave us when they go "home" and sometimes we later learn that they have passed away, but they're never forgotten. And although they can't tell you, they somehow know and appreciate what you are doing to help them on their journey to a second chance at a happy life.

If you'd like to explore the possibility of providing a temporary, loving, responsible foster home for a rescued dog, please contact the breed rescue group of your choice. All contact info is at www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com (look under breed rescue groups). Talk to them, find out what is required, and get a feel for whether or not that group would be a good match for you. If not, contact someone else. Breed traits vary greatly, and the personalities and procedures of the rescue groups vary greatly, as well. There are many choices! Have fun, and if you become a foster or already are one, thank you! 🐾



Rocky Mountain Cluster Dog Show

Sponsored by Plum Creek 2011

Sandy Moore, ABRN Board Member

The weather cooperated, and human and canine crowds gathered at this year's Rocky Mountain Cluster Dog Show sponsored by the Plum Creek Kennel Club.

We heard a rumor that all the rescue booths were going to be relegated to the bottom floor of the Hall of Education, and we were so grateful that our booth was in the same location as in previous years. No one had to search high and low to find us.

This year there were a dozen breeds showcased at the ABRN booth. On Friday, Samoyed, Lab, Pug and Beagle rescues distributed information about their breeds and about ABRN.

Denver artist and Chinese Crested Rescue representative DeDe Larue donated another wonderful and whimsical sculpture for our raffle. It was of a dog successfully balancing 2 balls. The metaphor for the skill needed to balance everything in life was not lost on the people who visited the booth, approximately \$700.00 was raised from the sale of raffle tickets, and the drawing was held Sunday evening. The much-needed proceeds will benefit ABRN. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and congratulations to Mimi Davis, who won the raffle! Mimi said she never buys raffle tickets, but she fell in love with the sculpture and plunked down \$20.00 for 5 tickets. Guess it was her lucky day. She is more than delighted with it.

Board member and list coordinator Karin Lang was the perfect model for the metaphor on Saturday by competently overseeing everything at the booth. Japanese Chin, Dalmatian and Pueblo Sheltie/Collie Rescue brought

dogs and information about them to the booth on Saturday, while Diane Leshner (with her Brussels Griffon "Whitney") and Martha Smith answered questions from the public and distributed information about ABRN. Volunteers Tom Lukich,

Sally Schultz, and I spent time on Saturday canvassing the Hall of Education and selling raffle tickets. Along the way we met Borzoi Welfare's Maggie Rice, whose Borzoi "V.V." was a winner in the ring. Good going, Maggie and V.V.! Competition was fierce.

A big thank you goes to Mimi Davis of Afghan Rescue for manning the booth early Sunday morning, as well as to Martha Smith and Diane Leshner (this time with Standard Poodle "Darby") for keeping the booth in order throughout the day. Also on Sunday, Saint Bernard Rescue shared a shift with Peke and Pom Rescue. Naturally, because the two groups exemplified such vast and wonderful sizes in dogs, they attracted a lot of attention to the booth. Joy Varga and Gladis Duarte of English Springer Rescue of the Rockies manned the booth for the last shift of the day on Sunday.

For dog lovers, the ambience of the biggest annual dog show in Denver can't be beat, and everyone enjoyed shopping at the many vendor booths and watching the dog shows featuring gorgeous dogs that exemplify each breed's best traits.

Thanks to all who volunteered in order for ABRN to have a presence once again at this very well-attended event. The ABRN Board of Directors really appreciated the time that busy rescue volunteers devoted during a holiday week-end. Having a booth at the Rocky Mountain Cluster Dog Show helps us to make meaningful contacts and perhaps find some good homes for some very good dogs. 🐾



PLEASE SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS.

Workplace Giving

Maximize your donation to All Breed Rescue Network! Through matching gift programs, your employer may match your gift to ABRN. Thousands of companies around the world currently participate. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to help our dogs may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses. Some companies make it fun like "everyone who makes a donation to ABRN gets to wear jeans on Wednesday", and their employer will match it. Like most nonprofit organizations right now in this struggling economy, our donations are down, and consequently, we cannot take every dog in need. We'd like to help more dogs. Every donation, whether large or small, is appreciated and helps us do just that. Thank you! 🐾



Saturday, May 7

ABRN has been given a coveted space again this year at the 18th Annual Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry. We're honored to be the only nonprofit/rescue organization asked to participate. This very well-attended event (drawing nearly 10,000 pet lovers and 5,000 dogs each year to Washington Park in Denver) is from 9 am until noon, rain or shine, on Saturday, May 7, 2011. This fundraiser helps DFL care for more than 25,000 homeless pets every year and provides valuable services to our community. If you are an ABRN-affiliated rescue group, would like to volunteer at the booth, and bring information about your rescue group, please contact Sandy Moore at cynthiaamber@comcast.net. Manning the ABRN booth is the only way you will be able to represent your breed at the Furry Scurry. For everyone who would like participate with your dog at the Furry Scurry in a 2-mile walk for the animals, and for more information, please visit www.ddfl.org or call (303) 751-5772, Ext. 1378. 🐾

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Animal Urgent Care, Dr. Liz O'Rourke

Helen Brand, In Honor of Brant Voouen

Columbine Dachshund Club, Thomas E. Zuelke, Show Chairman, Local Dachshund Specialty | From a silent auction to raise money for rescue and donated to ABRN "to help with the cost and challenges that you encounter in rescuing dogs."

Denver Samoyed Association, Inc. Rescue Fund

Lu Horner

Adam Mayer

Linda Lickert

Samuel and Jamie March

Tammy McCullough

Sonya Read

Martha Rosner

Office of District Attorney

Carol Chambers Employee Contributions

Including Ann Tomsic

Connie Sebastian

Hertha Thomas-Zagari Giant Schnauzer Rescue, Inc.

Carolyn Janak

This newsletter and the ABRN website, are made possible, in part, by a grant from the Animal Assistance Fund.

We are grateful, also, to our regular donors who wish to remain anonymous and those who donate food, crates, and other essentials!



Please help rescue dogs where most needed with a tax deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Won't you please go to our website and make a secure contribution through PayPal?

Or mail a check to: All Breed Rescue Network • P.O. Box 150803 • Lakewood, CO 80215-0803

ABRN Board Members

President: Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
 Past President: Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
 Vice President: Karin Lang (970) 667-4314
 Secretary: Jeanne Phipers (303) 985-2811
 Treasurer: Susan Lummanick (720) 320-2413
 Member-at-Large: Diane Leshner (303) 680-6265
 Member-at-Large: Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704

ABRN Hotline Volunteers

Susan Brown, Hotline Coordinator, (720) 851-7222

Ronda Brewer, Chris Collins, Joanne Cook, Jordan DiMarco, Lu Horner, Tina Jordan, Mimi Karsh, Sharon Nichols, Sandra Rector, Ann Terry

ABRN Mission

The mission of All Breed Rescue Network, Inc., is to provide a vehicle for the fostering and rehoming of abandoned purebred dogs, to assist in increasing the adoption of shelter dogs by promoting awareness and working with shelters, and to educate the community regarding responsible dog ownership including the spay/neuter of companion animals.

ABRN Vision

*Ending euthanasia
of adoptable dogs in Colorado.*

ABRN Shelter Liaison List

Adams County Animal Shelter (Brighton, CO) ♦
Aurora Animal Shelter (Aurora, CO)
 Diane Leshner (303) 680-6265 home or (303) 520-0705 cell
Denver Municipal Animal Shelter (Denver, CO)
 Linda and Brent Wagner (720) 981-1700
Dumb Friends League (Denver, CO)
 Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
 Backup: Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704
DFL Buddy Center (Castle Rock, CO)
 Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
Foothills Animal Shelter (formerly TMAC) (Golden, CO)
 Janet Nelson (303) 466-2459
 Backup: Lois Williams (303) 986-5296
Humane Society of Boulder Valley (Boulder, CO) ♦
Humane Society of South Platte Valley (Littleton, CO)
 Rena Todd (303) 669-5698
Humane Society of Weld County (Greeley, CO) ♦
Larimer Humane Society (Ft. Collins, CO)
 Karin Lang (970) 667-4314
Longmont Humane Society ♦
Mesa County Animal Services (Grand Junction, CO) ♦

♦ *Note: If unable to contact a shelter liaison or if there is none, please contact a board member.*

ABRN Rescue List Committee

Karin Lang, Chairman, km2dog@aol.com
 Bonnie Guzman, bonefinder@comcast.net
 Jenni McKernan, colosheltierescue@prodigy.net

Stay In Touch!

If you are interested in being on our rescue referral list or if you are on the list and have changes you need to make, please contact a member of the ABRN List Committee: Karin Lang, Coordinator, (970) 667-4314 or Km2dog@aol.com, Jenni McKernan, (303) 783-5772 or colosheltierescue@prodigy.net; or Bonnie Guzman, (303) 733-4220 or bonefinder@comcast.net

Would you like to feature a dog on ABRN's website? Contact Jenni McKernan at (303) 783-5772 or at colosheltierescue@prodigy.net to highlight a rescue dog on the website. Please follow up with Jenni when that dog has been adopted. Let Jenni know if the dog would be suitable for an active lifestyle, and she can add the "Jog Dog" icon next to the dog.

If you have a temporary change, such as a vacation, please contact the hotline coordinator, Susan Brown, at (720) 851-7222 or editor@skybeam.com.

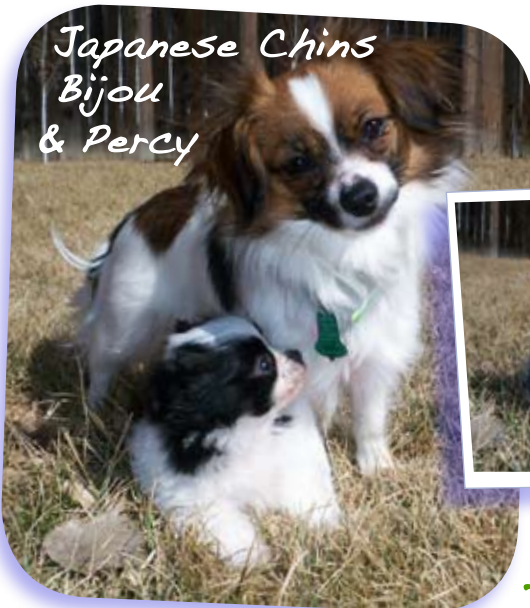
To find the appropriate rescue group to adopt or surrender a purebred dog, first check our website, www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com. If the information is not found there, call our hotline, (303) 989-7808.

To The Rescue, ABRN News, published quarterly.
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 Lois Williams and Maria Barnes, Distribution

ABRN reserves the right to edit any submissions for content, length, or grammar prior to publication. By submitting your article, you grant ABRN the right to publish your material in any future publications. While we welcome all submissions, only a limited amount of material can be published.

To submit comments, suggestions, ideas or articles for the newsletter, please call Susan Brown at (720) 851-7222 or email editor@skybeam.com. We love to get emails from people who've adopted a dog through ABRN. Photographs of rescued dogs are always welcome. If photos are digital, please set your camera at the highest resolution (3 mg minimum). Deadline for submissions for the next issue is May 31, 2011.

*Bijou would like to show off
her baby Percy's new
school pictures...*



*Japanese Chins
Bijou
& Percy*



... she's so proud of her little one!



all breed
RESCUE NETWORK, INC.

P.O. Box 150803
Lakewood, CO 80215-0803



Blondie, Bouvier des Flandres

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